

For immediate release
April 27, 2004

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LEADERS MEET

For the first time on record, the heads of the two commissions charged with demarcating the northern and southern borders of the United States will conduct a face to face meeting. The historic gathering of the Commissioners of the International Boundary Commission, United States and Canada (IBC) and the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) is scheduled for April 29 in San Antonio, Texas. A media availability is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. on that date at the Adams Mark Hotel, Marbella Restaurant, 111 East Pecan Street. IBC U.S. Commissioner Dennis L. Schornack and Canadian Commissioner Michael O'Sullivan will meet with IBWC U.S. Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran and Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera Solis.

The 96-year old IBC is responsible for demarcating the border between the United States and Canada while the 115-year old IBWC is responsible for demarcating the U.S.-Mexico border as well as more broadly applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. The U.S. Commissioners and the Mexican Commissioner were appointed by their respective presidents and the Canadian Commissioner is appointed by the Canadian Order-in-Council. Never in the long history of the Commissions have the four agency heads been in one room together. The U.S. Section of the IBWC is based in El Paso, Texas while the Mexican Section has its headquarters in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. The U.S. IBC is based in Washington, D.C. and the Canadian IBC is based in Ottawa, Ontario.

The two commissions initiated their cooperation in 2002 when the United States Section of the IBWC (USIBWC) invited Kyle K. Hipsley, Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. International Boundary Commission, and his Canadian counterpart, Alain Arsenault, to tour part of the southern boundary of the United States. The following year, the USIBWC's Richard Peace, Operations Division Chief, and Manuel Rubio, Boundary and Realty Division Chief, visited the U.S.-Canada border. The commissions are exchanging information and ideas about improving demarcation of the lengthy international borders.

The IBC is conducting its Bi-Annual Meeting in San Antonio this month. The IBC and IBWC meeting will include introductions and general discussion of common interests. A more substantive meeting may occur at a future date.

For more information:

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